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THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 25 May 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a Declaration adopted by the member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference at the United Nations on 29 May 1993, on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you would kindly have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 143, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jamsheed K. A. MARKER
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Declaration adopted on 24 May 1993 by the member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference at the United Nations on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The position of the member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on the aggression against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been comprehensively outlined in the resolution adopted by the 21st Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Karachi from 25 to 29 April 1993.

The Islamic countries are committed to the implementation of a comprehensive peace plan in Bosnia and Herzegovina based on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the accepted norms of international relations. Such a plan must halt the Serbian aggression, reverse it through withdrawals from all territories occupied by the use of force and "ethnic cleansing", and fully restore the territorial integrity, unity and sovereignty of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Vance-Owen Peace Plan, sponsored by the United Nations and the European Community, did not fully conform to the above-mentioned principles for a just and durable peace settlement in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This plan was nevertheless accepted by the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the interest of achieving peace and bringing an end to the suffering of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Unfortunately, the Serbian aggressor, after considerable procrastination, refused to endorse the Vance-Owen Plan.

The United Nations Security Council had adopted several resolutions which endorsed the principles for peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Yet, effective enforcement action against the Serbs was long delayed by their promises to consider acceptance of the Vance-Owen Peace Plan. It is now clear that these offers of cooperation by the Serbian party were only a ploy to delay effective international action to enforce the decisions of the Security Council. This delay has allowed the aggression to continue and the ethnic cleansing to proceed apace against the Bosnian Muslims.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference has consistently insisted on urgent enforcement action, including the lifting of the discriminatory arms embargo against Bosnia and Herzegovina and recognition of its right to individual and collective self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. These demands for enforcement action, which are in full conformity with the principles of that Charter and the dictates of peace and justice, have not been accepted by certain members of the Security Council.

The member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference are gravely concerned that the Serbian aggression and genocide against the people of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina have continued, in particular the intensification of the Serbian offensive in eastern Bosnia, which has been accompanied by an escalation in Serbian military operations against Muslim towns in the north of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Islamic countries are also anguished by the resumption of the military offensive by Croat forces in the central, southern and western parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The hopes for peace of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the world community were kindled by the forthright statements emanating from the new Administration in the United States of America. These statements had expressed a willingness to consider the lifting of the arms embargo against Bosnia and Herzegovina and to contemplate the use of force to secure enforcement of the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

The Joint Action Programme announced on 22 May 1993 in Washington has disappointed the member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. This programme was announced without consulting the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The programme appears to accept the status quo imposed by the use of force and ethnic cleansing in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The programme falls severely short of the consensus decision on Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted by the London Conference and seems to give up hope of implementing the Vance-Owen Peace Plan. It would deny the right of self-defence to Bosnia and Herzegovina and defer any effective enforcement action.

The member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) are convinced that the result of adopting a strategy which fails to reverse aggression in Bosnia and Herzegovina will have consequences which go far beyond the borders of this State. It will encourage further aggression not only in other parts of the Balkans but in many other regions of the world where small and vulnerable States coexist with larger and more powerful neighbours. It will also seriously erode the credibility of the Security Council and particularly of its permanent members. The OIC member States note with understanding the negative response of the President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Joint Action Programme. In this context, the OIC member States welcomed the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina indicating the shortcomings and deficiencies of the Joint Action Programme.

The OIC member States believe that those who have advocated against effective enforcement action in Bosnia and Herzegovina have not served the cause of peace and international stability. The right of a State to self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations cannot be abrogated even by a resolution of the Security Council. To refrain from action under Chapter VII of the Charter, because of a presumed risk to United Nations peacekeepers is tantamount to acceptance of Serbian blackmail. The OIC member States reiterate that they are fully prepared to contribute troops for United Nations peace-keeping operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The deployment of such contingents should be accepted by the United Nations so long as this has the agreement of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina. No troops should be deployed on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina without the express consent of the legitimate Government of that country.

The OIC member States appeal to the conscience of the world to seek justice in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The peoples of the world must press their Governments to live up to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

The OIC member States urge the world community and the Security Council to take forceful and decisive steps for peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. These actions must include the following:

1. Lifting of the arms embargo against Bosnia and Herzegovina;

2. Use of force against heavy weapons that are being employed against civilian population centres in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

3. Interdiction of arms supplies to the Serbs;

4. Revision of the mandate of the United Nations peace-keeping forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina to enable it to take enforcement action;

5. Expansion of these forces by addition of troops from other countries, including Islamic countries;

6. Early establishment of the War Crimes Tribunal to deal with "ethnic cleansing" and to punish war crimes and crimes against humanity;

7. The safe return of the Bosnian refugees to their homes under the peace arrangements for Bosnia and Herzegovina;

8. A decision by the Security Council and its permanent members not to accept the unjust fait accompli in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In case the United Nations Security Council remains unable to take effective enforcement action in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the member States of OIC will seek to reconvene urgently the United Nations General Assembly and secure its approval to enforce the decisions of the international community against the Serbian aggressor for the restoration of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, thus ensuring durable and comprehensive peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The OIC member States express their solidarity with the people and Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina and pledge to offer them all possible assistance in exercising their right to individual and collective self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.